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CNRT Timor-Leste

xanana gusmão

PEACE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

This has been a century of wars, more dreadful than any which the history of humankind has known previously, because the means of destruction have grown ever more inhumane.

As unbelievable as it may seem, the more man advances in his command of the world of science and technology, the more he guarantees himself the means of his own destruction.

As humankind approaches the second millennium of civilisation, no single being can remain insensitive to to the great underdevelopment and suffering of the majority of the world's population, nor remain indifferent to the tremendous inequality which exists between societies.

Disease, hunger, poverty and exploitation abound in the Southern hemisphere. A vast number of human beings live below the poverty line.

Adding insult to the already desperate situation of peoples in many parts of the world is the phenomenon of organised wars and violence. All because dictators are free to rule, repressive and corrupt regimes are recognised as the legitimate voice of their subjects and colonialism continues to be tolerated.

Dictatorial and militaristic regimes suppress human rights and adulterate democracy and justice, exploiting the ignorance and emotions of their people. State-sponsored violence, ethnic repression and religious and social conflict are all the product of a total lack of political will on the part of governments and politicians.

Internal strife, colonial wars of occupation and revenge all represent the immoral and inhuman side of political leaders and politicians.

The painful experience of 23 years of resistance against the brutal and cowardly Indonesian invasion and military occupation of East Timor have left their mark on the history of a small and defenceless people. Only an abiding faith that truth would eventually prevail over injustice and that the rule of law is superior to the use of brute force has managed to sustain the spirit and determination of the people of East Timor throughout the most difficult of periods. But the Maubere people have paid dearly with the lives of over 250,000 of their brethren.

The cynicism and hypocrisy of governments and politicians have come to complicate the process of liberation of oppressed peoples. Economic interests seem always to triumph over respect for the basic rights of man.

The unequal distribution of the world's resources keeps the South in a state of constant dependence on the North. Today we see the countries of the South densely populated, famine and disease ridden and plagued by war.

As we stand at the threshold of the new millenium, the need for adoption of a new philosophy for humanity is accentuated.

East Timor today finds itself faced with the end of a 23 year old war imposed upon it by Indonesia. Old wounds have healed whilst new ones continue to be opened.

East Timor finds itself entering a new phase in its history, one which will permit its people to exercise their right to self-determination and national independence. Faced with the challenge of our own history, that which we now advocate is love, reconciliation and peace.

The Timorese people wish to enter the year 2000 in a new spirit and with a new philosophy – that of love and peace!

We are but a small drop of water in a vast ocean, however our contribution to the cause of Peace in the world has only just begun!

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
President of the CNRT

Salemba, 8 May 1999